

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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SUBJ: CONSULTATIONS FOR MINISTER LECHIN

REF: A. LA PAZ 6958, B. LA PAZ 6645, C. STATE 224968

1. EMBASSY PASSED INFORMATION ON MEETING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY KATZ TO GOB AND DISCUSSED PRINCIPAL TOPICS OF GOB INTEREST WITH SUB-SECRETARY FOR PLANNING ENRIQUE GARCIA, WHO WILL ACCOMPANY LECHIN. ALSO WITH LECHIN DURING VISIT WITH ASST SEC KATZ WILL BE GOB'S AMBASSADOR ALBERTO CRESPO AND POSSIBLY SUB-SECRETARY OF FINANCE BLANCO. BASICALLY, GEN LECHIN WAS IMPRESSED WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER'S STATEMENT AT NAIROBI AND WISHES TO DISCUSS IN GENERAL SOME OF THE PRINCIPAL US PROPOSALS OF INTEREST TO BOLIVIA. THE ONLY ITEM HE WISHES TO DISCUSS IN SPECIFICS IS THE US PROPOSAL ON TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY. THE GOB INTENDS TO ESTABLISH A "CONSEJO DE TECNOLOGIA" AND WISHES TO DISCUSS WHAT ASSISTANCE THE US MIGHT BE ABLE TO GIVE BOLIVIA IN THIS FIELD. LECHIN IS ALSO INTERESTED IN THE KISSINGER PROPOSAL FOR A WORLD MINERALS FUND AND IN THE OTHER PROPOSALS BUT OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT THIS IS IN A MUCH MORE GENERAL VEIN AND THAT HE WILL NOT BE INTERESTED IN THE SPECIFICS AS MUCH AS IN THE CASE OF TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY.

2. SECONDLY, GEN LECHIN LOOKS UPON THIS VISIT AS A FOLLOW-UP TO MEETINGS HE HAD LAST YEAR WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AT THE TIME OF THE BANK OF BOSTON SEMINAR. OUR UNDERSTANDING IS THAT HE PLANS

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TO PRESENT ASST SEC KATZ AND OTHER OFFICIALS WITH COPIES OF

BOLIVIA'S RECENTLY PUBLISHED FIVE-YEAR PLAN AND TO BRIEF US OFFICIALS ON THE PLAN, ON BOLIVIA'S INVESTMENT PLANS FOR THE 1976-1980 PERIOD AND ON THE EXTERNAL FINANCING REQUIREMENTS OF THE DEVELOPMENT PLAN. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE UNDERSTAND HE PLANS TO DISCUSS IN GENERAL TERMS US PARTICIPATION IN FINANCING THE PLAN, BUT PRINCIPALLY WITH RESPECT TO COORDINATION OF USAID INPUTS AND LESS WITH RESPECT TO LEVELS OF USAID FUNDING. THIS APPEARS IN PART TO BE RELATED TO COMMENTS WHICH WERE MADE BY WASHINGTON OFFICIALS DURING LECHIN'S PREVIOUS VISIT ABOUT BOLIVIA'S POSSIBLY OVERLY CONCENTRATING ITS DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS ON PRODUCTIVE SECTORS AND GIVING INADEQUATE ATTENTION TO SOCIAL SECTORS. LECHIN APPARENTLY WISHES TO ASSURE USG OFFICIALS THAT THE SOCIAL SECTOR IS NOT BEING NEGLECTED (SOME 16 PERCENT OF THE INVESTMENT IN THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN WILL BE FOR SOCIAL SECTOR INVESTMENTS ACCORDING TO GARCIA AND THAT THE GOB WELCOMES USAID'S EFFORTS IN THE SOCIAL SECTORS AND AGRICULTURAL.

3. IT APPEARS, THEREFORE, THAT ASIDE FROM DETAILED DISCUSSION OF TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY, GEN LECHIN DOES NOT INTEND TO MAKE ANY PROPOSALS FOR INCREASED US FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, NOR APPARENTLY DOES HE INTEND ANY DEMARCHE ON USG TIN STOCKPILE SALES, ALTHOUGH HE IS LIKELY TO MENTION TIN IN THE CONTEXT OF BOLIVIA'S OVERALL ECONOMIC SITUATION. IT IS CONCEIVABLE, HOWEVER, THAT IF CONGRESSIONAL ACTION AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL TIN STOCKPILE DISPOSALS DOES OCCUR BETWEEN NOW AND HIS VISIT, THAT THIS ASPECT WOULD TAKE ON MORE IMPORTANCE AND THERE COULD BE SOME SORT OF MORE EXTENDED DISCUSSION OF BOLIVIA'S CONCERN ABOUT US STOCKPILE DISPOSALS. BUT THIS DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE THE CASE AT THE PRESENT MOMENT.

4. GEN LECHIN PLANS TO DEPART WASHINGTON FRIDAY EVENING SEPT 24 AND IT IS UNLIKELY THAT HE WOULD DELAY HIS DEPARTURE TO ACCEPT MR SEARBY'S LUNCHEON INVITATION. WE HAVE PASSED ALONG THE INVITATION AND WILL ADVISE THE DEPARTMENT OF HIS RESPONSE.
STEDMAN

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